

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00627 160327Z

62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20

OMB-01 PC-04 DRC-01 /143 W  
----- 061488

P R 151300Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4744

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 0627

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES

SUBJECT: ELECTIONS 1974; ELECTION WRAPUP

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. CONTRARY TO EARLIER PREDUCTIONS BY SOME PCN LEADERS THAT OPPOSITION SLATES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE CONTESTED THIS YEAR, PRESS REPORTS FEB 14 THAT THE GOVERNMENT PARTY HAS CHALLENGED BEFORE THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL (CCE) THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN UNO LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES ON FOUR DEPARTMENTAL TICKETS; SANTA ANA, SAN MIGUEL, LA PAZ AND LA UNION. THE PCN HAS ALSO CHALLENGED THE TICKET OF THE CONSERVATIVE FUDI IN ITS HOME BASE OF AHUACHAPAN. IN ADDITION, THE CCE HAS REPORTEDLY DENIED INSCRIPTION OF FIVE OF THE SIX LEGISLATIVE SLATES BEING FIELDDED BY THE PPS. THE OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE SEVERAY DAYS TO COUNTER THE CHALLENGES OR CORRECT THE TECHNICAL ERRORS IN THEIR SLATES BY REPLACING THE QUESTIONED CANDIDATES AND RESUBMIT THEM TO THE CCE FOR ONE FINAL TIME.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAN SA 00627 160327Z

2. MOST OF THE TICKETS ARE EVIDENTLY BEING CONTESTED ON THE GROUNDS

THAT THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY THE ELECTORAL LAW TO QUALIFY CANDIDATES (BIRTH CERTIFICATES, POLQCE RECORDS, TAX CLEARANCE, PERSONAL IDENTITY CARDS, ETC.) ARE EITHER MISSING OR IMPROPERLY PRESENTED. IN FACT, EVEN PCN CANDIDATES HAVE COMPLAINED PRIVATELY THAT THE CCE IS BEING EXTREMELY STRICT AND PPS LEADERS CONTEND THAT THE CCE IS DEMANDING DOCUMENTATION NOT PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED; "THEY EVEN WANT THE BIRTH CERTIFICATES OF THE GRAND-PARENTS OF OUR CANDIDATES". SOME OPPOSITION MUNICIPAL TICKETS ALLEGEDLY ALSO ARE BEING CHALLENGED BUT THESE HAVE YET TO BE PUBLICIZED. PCN LEADERS CONTEND THAT SOME OF THE ERRORS MADE IN FILING THE OPPOSITION SLATES ARE SO OBVIOUS AS TO RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OPPOSITION'S REAL INTENTIONS. THEY ASSERT THAT THE UNO, ESPECIALLY, MAY BE SEEKING DISQUALIFICATION DELIBERATELY SO THAT IT CAN PLAY THE ROLE OF THE POLITICAL MARTYR. THE GOVERNMENT PART NOTES, TOO, THAT ALL OF ITS OWN TICKETS ARE OPEN TO SCRUTINY BY ALL PARTIES AND THAT NONE HAVE YET BEEN CONTESTED, ALTHOUGH AN UNO SPOKESMAN HAS HINTED THAT THEY MAY DO SO IN VIEW OF THE PCN'S ACTION. (IN FACT UNDER THE LAW, IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR THEM TO CHALLENGE).

3. MEANWHILE, THE DULL CAMPAIGN CONTINUES WITH LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ANY STIRRINGS OF POPULAR INTEREST. THE PCN STILL BOMBARDS THE HAPLESS TV AUDIENCE WITH ITS TURGID NIGHTLY PROGRAMS, RECOUNTING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MOLINA GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF AND SOME OBSERVERS CONTEND THAT THIS IS CREATING AN ANTI-PCN BACKLASH. PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER SEAMAN, FEATURED ON ONE PROGRAM THAT REVIEWED ROAD BUILDING PROJECTS, IS THE FIRST GOVERNMENT MINISTER PUBLICLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAMPAIGN (HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE PCN DIRECTORATE). PRESIDENT MOLINA HAS YET TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ABOUT THE CONTEST. PREDICTABLY, THE PRESS HAS REMAINED ALOOF AS IT PLAYS ITS TRADITIONAL "NON-POLITICAL" ROLE AND HAS NOT ENDORSED ANY PART NOR EDITORIALIZED ABOUT THE FEW ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION. AND AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, THE RECTOR, DR. ALWOOD PAREDES, HAS PUBLICLY ASKED ALL PARTIES TO REFRAIN FROM CARRYING THEIR POLITICS ON THE CAMPUS.

4. DESPITE THE POTENTIAL VOLATILITY OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM AND COST OF LIVING QUESTIONS, ORGANIZED LABOR HAS THUS FAR PLAYED A MINOR ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PCN'S

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAN SA 00627 160327Z

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR IN SAN SALVADOR, "NEGRO" GONZALEZ, AND UNO LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE FOR SAN SALVADOR RAFAEL AGUINADA CARRANZA, A UDN MEMBER AND A FUSS ACTIVIST, FEW CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM LABOR'S RANKS. MOREOVER, THE MAJOR LABOR GROUPS HAVE PUBLISHED LITTLE IF ANY POLITICAL PROPAGANDA AND APPARENTLY HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED THUS FAR TO MOBILIZE THEIR MEMBERSHIP ON BEHALF OF ANY CANDIDATE OR PARTY.

5. COMMENT: IF THE UNO IS FINALLY RULED INELIGIBLE TO RUN LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES IN THE FOUR DEPARTMENTS UNDER DISPUTE, THIS WOULD MEAN THE LOSS OF AT LEAST FIVE ASSEMBLY SEATS AND WOULD VIRTUALLY GUARANTEE THE PCN A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN THE NEW ASSEMBLY. THE UNO MIGHT ALSO WITHDRAW FROM EITHER THE LEGISLATIVE OR MUNICIPAL CONTESTS OR BOTH WHICH IN THE PAST IT HAS HINTED IT MIGHT DO IF IT BELIEVE THE CARDS TO BE TOO HEAVILY STACKED AGAINST IT. THESE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ALL OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES MAY SOON MEET TO DISCUSS THIS POSSIBILITY.  
MOSKOWITZ

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